

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 as follows:

B1 9. (Amended) An ink-jet apparatus employing an ink-jet head having a plurality of heaters corresponding to one ejection opening and performing printing by ejecting an ink from said ink-jet head to a printing medium, comprising:

driving means for applying respective pulses to the plurality of heaters for [bubbling] forming bubbles in the ink for ejecting the ink through said one ejection opening, said driving means being capable of mutually shifting timings of [bubbling] bubble forming at respective heaters of said plurality of heaters on a basis of information relating to an ink temperature of said ink-jet head.

10. (Amended) An ink-jet apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the plurality of heaters are heaters identical in [position] distance relative to one ejection opening, size and heating characteristics with respect to each other.

B2 12. (Amended) An ejection amount controlling method in an ink-jet apparatus employing an ink ejecting portion having a plurality of heaters corresponding to one ejection opening and ejecting ink from said ink ejecting portion to a printing medium, said method comprising the step of:

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adjusting an ink ejection amount by mutually shifting [bubbling timing] bubble forming timings at respective heaters of the plurality of heaters upon application of respective pulses to the plurality of heaters, based on information relating to an ink temperature of the ink ejecting portion, for [causing bubbling of] forming bubbles in the ink to eject the ink through the ink ejection opening.

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13. (Amended) An ejection amount stabilizing method in an ink-jet apparatus employing an ink ejection portion having a plurality of heaters corresponding to one ejection opening and ejecting ink from said ink ejecting portion to a printing medium, said method comprising the step of:

stabilizing an ink ejection amount by mutually shifting [bubbling timing] bubble forming timings at respective heaters of the plurality of heaters upon application of respective pulses to the plurality of heaters for [causing bubbling of] forming bubbles in the ink to eject the ink through the ink ejection opening so as to adjust the ink ejection amount.

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Please add Claim 47 as follows:

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--~~47~~. An ejection amount stabilizing method as claimed in claim ~~13~~ 5, wherein in said step for stabilizing the ink ejection amount, the bubble forming timing is mutually shifted based on the ink temperature of the ink ejecting portion.--